

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 DHA-02

OMB-01 /103 W

-----048941 041216Z /42

R 041117Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9605

INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: MUGABE PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1669 NOTAL

SUMMARY: MUGABE DENIED ANTI-SOVIET REMARKS ON PEKING TRIP AND
STUCK TO LINE SUPPORTIVE OF JOSHUA NKOMO AND PATRIOTIC FRONT.
END SUMMARY.

1. PATRIOTIC FRONT AND ZANND FRONT AND ZANU LEADER ROBERT MUGABE HELD

PRESS CONFERENCE AT OAU CONFERENCE CENTER JULY 3.
MUGABE SHARED ROSTRUM WITH EDGAR TEKERE, ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY OF ZANU.

2. IN FORMAL PRESS RELEASE, MUGABE STATED (A) HE WOULD
MEET SOON WITH DAVID OWEN AT OWEN'S INVITATION, (B) HE
EXPECTED NOTHING FROM MEETING SINCE BRITISH HAVE FAILED

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IN PAST ADDRESS QUESTION OF TRANSFER OF POWER TO PEOPLE
OF ZIMBABWE, (C) PF AT LIBREVILLE TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE
EMPHASIS TO ARMED STRUGGLE, AND (D) ONLY PEACEKEEPING
FORCE ACCEPTABLE IN ZIMBABWE WAS ZIMBABWEAN FORCE.

3. MUGABE IN PREPARED REMARKS STATED UK HAD BEEN TOLD
ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT WAR SITUATION EXISTED

IN ZIMBABWE AND THAT PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED SIMPLY BY AGREEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION WHICH INCORPORATED ELECTORAL LAW AND BILL OF RIGHT. FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE WAS WHO HELD POWER AND PF FORCES, RATHER THAN SMITH FORCES, MUST CONTROL COUNTRY. SINCE ZIMBABWE IS IN WAR SITUATION, SUCH QUESTIONS COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN PF AND UK AND PEACE THUS COULD COME ONLY WHEN TRANSFER OF POWER OCCURRED AND PF FORCES WERE SAFEGUARDING THAT POWER.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON HIS REPORTED ANTI- SOVIET STATEMENTS IN CHINA, MUGABE MADE SEVERAL FLAT DENIALS, PLACE BLAME ON WESTERN MEDIA AND STATED THIS WAS OBVIOUS MOVE TO DIVIDE PF. HE STATED ALL SOCIALSIST COUNTIRES MUST BE MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT PF REGARDLESS OF THEIR PAST BACKING FOR EITHER ZAPU OR ZANU, AND CREDITED SOVIETS WITH BEING PF'S PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF EXTERNAL SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: UNLIKE NKOMO (REFTEL), MUGABE MADE NO DIRECT CRITICISM OF MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE BUT ESSENTIALLY IGNORED THEIR EXISTENCE. HIS FLAT DENIAL OF HIS REPORTED ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS IN PEKING PROBABLY ARE PARTIAL REFLECTION OF NEED TO PRESERVE "UNITY" OF PF WHILE RECOGNITION ISSUE IS UNDER DISCUSSION AT SUMMIT. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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